

### REMARKS

The Examiner is thanked for the examination of the application. However, favorable reconsideration is requested in view of the following remarks.

Claims 2, 3 and 5 remain canceled. Claims 1, 4, 6 and 7-23 are pending, with Claims 1, 10, 16 and 19 being independent. The Examiner is thanked for indicating that Claims 19 and 23 are allowed and that Claim 13 defines allowable subject matter and would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

The Official Action rejects Claims 1, 4, 6-12, 14-18 and 20-22 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,740,496), hereinafter *Kawabuchi*.

This application addresses a situation where a user of an image processing machine is interested in discarding a print job *and printing a new print job with different image data, but with the same image forming conditions*. As described in the present specification, one of the drawbacks associated with the prior art is that when a user discarded a print job the, the image forming conditions were also necessarily discarded. Thus, the user was then required to re-establish the image forming conditions necessary for the next print job.

With regard to the claimed "output control unit" for causing the output unit to output image data newly input from the image input unit after the discarding of image data from the first memory under the maintained image forming conditions, the Examiner cites column 3, line 50 to column 4, line 22 and column 9, line 17 to column 10, line 29.

*Kawabuchi* does teach that the set number may be retained while suspending either the image reading operation or the printing operation, provided that the

operation is in process when the clear key is pressed. However, *Kawabuchi* is silent as to how to resume a printing operation after the suspension. To emphasize the differences between *Kawabuchi* and the present invention, the nonallowed independent claims have been amended. For example, claim 1 now recites "an output control unit for causing the output unit to automatically output image data newly input from the image input unit after the discarding of image data from the first memory under the maintained image forming conditions". Claim 10 now recites "a print control unit for causing the printer to automatically print another image data newly read by the image reader after the discarding of image data from the image memory under the maintained image forming conditions in the mode memory". And, claim 16 now recites "automatically printing a new image on a paper, based on the new image data acquired after the discarding of image data from the image memory, under the image forming conditions maintained in the memory". Support for the amendments can be found at least in Fig. 7 based on the sequence of steps S126 to S127.

*Kawabuchi* does not disclose the combinations of claims 1, 10, and 16, which refer to ***automatically*** starting an output or print step. The sections in *Kawabuchi* identified by the Examiner as allegedly corresponding to that claim element disclose discarding of data (column 10, lines 16 to 26), but do not teach the features above concerning ***automatically*** printing or outputting newly input image data under the maintained image forming conditions.

Accordingly, claims 1, 10, and 16 are patentable. Claims 4, 6 – 9, 11, 12, 14, 15, 17, 18 and 20-22 are allowable at least by virtue of their dependence from allowable independent claims.

For at least the above-reasons, it is requested that all the rejections be withdrawn and that this application be allowed in a timely manner.

In the event that there are any questions concerning this amendment, or the application in general, the Examiner is respectfully urged to telephone the undersigned attorney so that prosecution of the application may be expedited.

Respectfully submitted,

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